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Statistical Commission
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

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(f) Ottawa Group on Price Indexes;

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(k) Environmental accounting;

(l) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

(m) International economic and social classifications;

(n) Development indicators;

(o) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;

(p) Principles governing international statistical activities.

5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the fortieth session of the Commission.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and past practices, the Statistical Commission, at the commencement of its first meeting of a regular session, shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur (the Bureau).

The Bureau serves for two years, as far as possible. This is achieved by electing the Bureau for a period of one year and re-electing those members of the Bureau who continue to be representatives to the Commission at the following session. The Bureau is elected based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution — a member of the Bureau is elected from each of the regions represented on the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items in the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were proposed by the Commission at its thirty-eighth session (New York, 27 February-2 March 2007)[1] and were adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 4* (E/2007/24), chap. I, sect. B, draft decision.

decision 2007/236. The Bureau of the Commission has subsequently approved some changes. The proposed draft organization of work and a note on the state of preparation of documentation for the session are before the Commission. The Commission may wish to adopt the agenda and organization of work for its thirty-ninth session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.3/2008/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/2008/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session (E/CN.3/2008/CRP.1)

3. Items for discussion and decision

(a) Programme review: employment statistics

The Statistical Commission will have before it a report prepared by the Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, containing a programme review of employment statistics. The report was prepared at the request of the Commission at its thirty-eighth session. It presents the current situation, analyses the challenges and provides specific recommendations. The Commission may wish to express its views on the findings, conclusions and recommendations for future work in this area.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the programme reviewer on employment statistics (E/CN.3/2008/2)

(b) Education statistics

The Statistical Commission will have before it a report of the International Task Force on Education Statistics. The report contains a review of the main measurement frameworks in the field of education currently in use for purposes of data collection at the international, regional or national levels and what impact they have on the production and use of statistics. The report also looks at coordination mechanisms among relevant agencies with respect to different stages of the statistical production and dissemination cycle. In addition, the report proposes possible ways to improve coordination, data collection and production, and dissemination. The Commission may wish to express its views on the substance of the report and provide recommendations for future work in this area.

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (E/CN.3/2008/3)

(c) International Comparison Programme

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the International Comparison Programme Global Office of the World Bank on the completion of the 2005 round and the publication of the regional and global results.

The Commission will also have before it a report of the Friends of the Chair on the International Comparison Programme. The report includes the results of an evaluation by the Friends of the Chair assessing the scope, activities and lessons learned from the current round of the International Comparison Programme. The report provides recommendations on where improvements can be made and a proposal by the Friends of the Chair concerning the continuation of the programme.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank (E/CN.3/2008/33)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair (E/CN.3/2008/4)

(d) National accounts

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts. The report submits the final draft of chapters 1-17 of the updated *System of National Accounts, 1993, Rev.1* for adoption by the Commission. The report also presents to the Commission an implementation strategy for the *System of National Accounts, 1993, Rev.1*. The Commission is requested to adopt the submitted draft chapters and express its views on the proposed implementation strategy.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2008/5)

(e) Integrated economic statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Friends of the Chair on integrated economic statistics. The report presents to the Commission a concept paper on the modalities of the integrated approach to economic statistics. It also includes recommendations by the Friends of the Chair arising from the concept paper. The Commission may wish to comment on the concept paper and the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair (E/CN.3/2008/6)

(f) Tourism statistics

The joint report of the United Nations Statistics Division and the World Tourism Organization introduces the revised International Recommendations on Tourism Statistics, which were prepared in consultation with national statistical offices and national tourism administrations, and were endorsed by the United Nations Expert Group on Tourism Statistics and by the Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Measurement of Tourism of the World Trade Organization. The Commission may wish to review and approve the draft revised International Recommendations on Tourism Statistics.

Documentation

Joint report of the Secretary-General and the World Tourism Organization (E/CN.3/2008/7)

(g) Distributive trade statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General presenting the draft international recommendations on distributive trade statistics. The recommendations were revised in compliance with the request made by the Commission at its thirty-sixth session. The draft recommendations were prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division in consultation with the national statistical offices and international organizations concerned. It was endorsed by the United Nations Expert Group on Distributive Trade Statistics at its second meeting. The Commission may wish to review and approve the draft recommendations.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2008/8)

(h) Industrial statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on industrial statistics. The report submits the final draft of the revised *International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics*. The Commission is requested to adopt the revised recommendations.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2008/9)

(i) International merchandise trade statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General presenting a proposal to revise the recommendations on international merchandise trade statistics in view of: (a) the ever increasing user demand for more detailed, consistent and timely data for trade policymaking, economic analysis and market research; (b) changes in the organization of international merchandise trade and in the legal environment in which it is conducted; and (c) the need to provide a better support for and harmonization with the revised *System of National Accounts, 1993, Rev.1*, the forthcoming sixth edition of the *Balance of Payments Manual* and the revised *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services*. The revision process, including a worldwide consultation on a list of updated or new recommendations, should be completed by 2010. The Commission may wish to express its views on this proposal.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2008/10)

(j) Statistics of human development

After an in-depth debate on meeting the needs of statistics of human development during the period 2000-2002, the Commission invited the Human Development

Report Office to report periodically on its statistical work. The document before the Commission provides an update on the continuing efforts by the Human Development Report Office to improve the quality of the statistical content of the *Human Development Report*. It also highlights and analyses the areas where the greatest statistical challenges persist. The Commission is invited to comment on the statistical work of the Human Development Report Office.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme (E/CN.3/2008/11)

(k) Collection and dissemination of statistics by the United Nations Statistics Division

The report provides the Commission with an update on the current data collection and dissemination activities of the United Nations Statistics Division. In particular, the report focuses on the Division's efforts to provide a single access to data of the United Nations system through a data portal and to strengthen national capacity in data dissemination. The report also addresses the issue of duplicate data collection by international organizations and the Division's role in facilitating a resolution. The Commission is invited to comment on the United Nations data portal and its potential further development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2008/12)

(l) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata

The Commission will have before it a report on efforts by seven international organizations involved in an initiative to foster standards on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange. The institutions sponsoring the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange include the Bank for International Settlements, the European Central Bank, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Statistics Division and the World Bank. This report reviews recent activities and includes a proposal for recognition of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange as the international standard for data and metadata exchange. The Commission may wish to express its views on progress achieved by the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange and the way forward.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange (E/CN.3/2008/13)

(m) Regional statistical development in Africa

The Commission will have before it the report of the Economic Commission for Africa on regional statistical development in Africa. The report highlights issues and challenges facing African countries in enhancing their statistical capacity. It then gives an overview of recent developments and ongoing initiatives by African stakeholders aimed at overcoming those challenges, including the establishment of the Statistical Commission

for Africa, the setting up of an African Statistical Coordination Committee and the drafting of the African Charter for Statistics. It also elaborates the way forward.

The Commission may wish to comment on recent and ongoing efforts aimed at boosting the statistical development of African countries and organizations. It might also wish to call upon all stakeholders, including development partners, to scale up their support to statistical development in Africa.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Economic Commission for Africa (E/CN.3/2008/14)

4. Items for information

(a) Health statistics

The Commission will have before it a report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics. The report will describe and identify projects in the area of health statistics that are of interest to national statistical offices. It will also include work under development by the Health Metric Network on health surveys. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics (E/CN.3/2008/15)

(b) Population and housing censuses

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses. The report will contain a description of activities undertaken in response to the recommendation made by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-eighth session in regard to the implementation of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses. The activities include the conduct of expert group meetings and training workshops; finalization of the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2*; and the development of a website to serve as a census knowledge base. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2008/16)

(c) Round table on business survey frames

The Commission will have before it a report of the round table on business survey frames. The report reviews developments in the field of business survey frames and activities planned by the round table. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the round table (E/CN.3/2008/17)

(d) International merchandise trade statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics on the work accomplished by the Task Force since the thirty-seventh session of the Commission. The Commission may wish to take note of the progress and plans of the Task Force in both data compilation and the methodological aspects of its work.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/2008/18)

(e) Statistics of international trade in services

The Commission will have before it the report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services on its recent meetings and the progress made in the revision of the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services* to be completed by 2009. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (E/CN.3/2008/19)

(f) Ottawa Group on Price Indexes

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes. The report summarizes recent activities, meetings and plans of the Ottawa Group. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ottawa Group (E/CN.3/2008/20)

(g) Statistics of science and technology

The Statistical Commission will have before it a report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) elaborating current and future plans in the area of science and technology statistics. There are a number of areas of work currently being undertaken. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics, in collaboration with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Eurostat, conducted a second worldwide research and development survey. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics also developed guidelines for developing countries on how to measure innovation statistics as an annex to the current OECD *Oslo Manual: Guidelines for Collecting and Interpreting Innovation Data*, which was published in 2005. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics is planning to start work on innovation statistics in 2008. Finally, as a joint project with OECD and Eurostat, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics has developed a survey methodology to follow the careers of doctoral holders. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (E/CN.3/2008/21)

(h) Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics

The Commission will have before it a report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics. The report provides an update on recent meetings, activities and plans of the Delhi Group. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group (E/CN.3/2008/22)

(i) Agricultural statistics

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, providing an update on recent developments in the formation of the Wye city group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wye city group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income (E/CN.3/2008/23)

(j) Environment statistics

The Commission will have before it a report of the Intersecretariat Working Croup on Environment Statistics, reviewing activities undertaken and work accomplished in 2006-2007, and planned outputs and programme of work for 2008 and 2009. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2008/24)

(k) Environmental accounting

The Commission will also have before it, for information, the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting. The report describes the progress of work of the Committee, the project management framework and the implementation strategy for the System of Environmental and Economic Accounting for Water. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2008/25)

(l) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

The Commission will have before it a report that summarizes the main conclusions of the 7th and 8th meetings of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, held on 26 February 2007 in New York and on 10 and 11 September 2007 in Madrid, respectively. The Commission may wish to take into account, in its discussions under relevant agenda items, the views expressed by the Committee and take note of the report.

The Commission will also have before it a report prepared by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century. The report outlines efforts to promote the better use of better statistics as a central part of the enabling environment for development progress, particularly through support to countries in the design, implementation and monitoring of national strategies for the development of statistics, through advocacy and by encouraging donor collaboration in statistical support programmes. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2008/26)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century on statistical capacity-building (E/CN.3/2008/27)

(m) International economic and social classifications

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the International Labour Office. The report provides information on the status of completion and adoption of the updated International Standard Classification of Occupations and on International Labour Organization plans to support implementation of the updated classification.[1] The Commission is requested to take note of the report and of the plans for implementation of the updated classification.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Labour Organization (E/CN.3/2008/28)

(n) Development indicators

The Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General describing the work of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators in 2007 in the following areas: strengthening the reporting mechanisms from national statistical systems to international agencies; enhancing metadata and methodologies on Millennium Development Goals indicators; defining strategies to improve data on Millennium Development Goals indicators in national and international sources; reviewing the approaches for the production and analysis of Millennium Development Goals indicators; coordination and support to countries in the compilation and analysis of indicators at the national level; and preparation of the yearly analysis and reports on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on Indicators for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2008/29)

(o) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions

This item was placed in the agenda by the Commission at the request of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1999/51 with a view to encouraging a closer relationship between the work of the Commission and of the Council. The Commission will have before it, for information, a note by the Secretary-General containing extracts from Council resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions that are relevant to the work of the Commission and the actions taken or planned by the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Commission (E/CN.3/2008/30)

(p) Principles governing international statistical activities

The Commission will have before it a brief summary report on the efforts undertaken by various international agencies active in the field of statistics to implement the principles governing international activities, which were welcomed by the Statistical Commission in 2006. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2008/31)

5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

The Commission will receive an oral report from the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning current activities, plans and priorities of the Division for the biennium 2008-2009. The Commission will also have before it a background paper containing the proposed strategic framework for 2010-2011.

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the fortieth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its fortieth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation. The Commission will also have before it a proposal for the dates of the session. In addition, in accordance with the request of the Council (see Council resolution 1999/51), the Commission will have before it a draft multi-year programme of work for 2008-2011. The Commission is invited to approve the date, provisional agenda and documentation for its fortieth session, as well as to approve the multi-year programme.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2008/L.2)

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission (E/CN.3/2008/32)

7. **Report of the Commission on its thirty-ninth session**

The Commission may wish to adopt the report on its thirty-ninth session, which will be submitted to the Council.

Documentation

Draft report of the Commission on its thirty-ninth session (E/CN.3/2008/L.__)